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### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The reporting of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedance to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is quarterly and is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) which is an average of testing once a quarter for the previous four quarters within the preceding 12 months. Our last quarter of 2018 has exceeded the MCL of 60 Micrograms per liter (60 parts per billion) for HAA5's therefore we are notifying our customers as indicated on the attached information sheet.

Over the past 12 months we have received over 66 inches of rainfall which has increased the amount of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in the runoff to our reservoirs especially within the Notown Reservoir. An increase in TOC is directly related to the increase in Disinfection By-Products (DPB's) in the distribution system. We are in the process of optimizing our treatment plant at the Notown Reservoir to handle the increases in TOC that we are seeing in the raw water stream.

A Draft Corrective Action Plan has been submitted to the DEP for review. We are diligently working on short term and long term corrective action plans such as a hydraulic model study of the City of Leominster Water System, replacement of filter media at the Water Treatment Plant and investigating the Water Treatment Plant operations for possible changes to the process.

We are pleased to report that this January we have sampled and received our official test numbers for the first quarter of 2019 below.

Location	First Quarter Result (ppb)	LRAA (ppb)
DBP1 – 40 Pioneer Drive	18	25
DBP2 – 20 Lindell	27	56
DBP3 – 370 West	28	56
DBP4 – Electric	25	41

These first quarter results indicate we will most probably be in compliance with the HAA5 Locational Running Annual Average Maximum Contaminant Level of 60 parts per billion set by the Environmental Protection Agency for the coming reportable quarter.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

To all customers of the Leominster Water Department located in Leominster, Massachusetts  
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) are Above Drinking Water Standards

*This is an important notice - please translate it for anyone who does not understand English.*

This notice is to advise our customers that our water system is in noncompliance with the drinking water standards for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s). Although this is *not an emergency*, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor the drinking water for HAA5 levels on a quarterly basis at four specific locations in the distribution system. The results of this quarter's sampling, which was performed on October 24, 2018, show that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for HAA5 at two out of four locations. The standard for HAA5 is 60 parts per billion (ppb), and compliance is determined on a quarterly basis by averaging all samples collected at each location for the last 12 months (Running Annual Average). The locations and those averages are as follows (averages above the MCL are in **bold**):

Location	HAA5 Running Annual Average (ppb)
DBP1 – 40 Pioneer Drive	36
DBP2 – 20 Lindell	<b>68</b>
DBP3 – 370 West	<b>67</b>
DBP4 – 494 Electric	55

### What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified right away. However, pregnant women, infants, and women of childbearing age may be at increased risk and should seek advice from their health care providers if they have any concerns. ***Some people who drink water containing (HAA5s) haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.***

A question and answer document on health effects, precautions, and water treatment options for HAA5s has been provided by MassDEP and is available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/haa5-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers>. You can also contact the US EPA Safe Drinking Water Hot Line at #1-800-426-4791.

### What happened? What is being done?

HAA5s are a byproduct of chlorine disinfection which forms when chlorine combines with natural organic matter sometimes found in ground water supplies. Levels of HAA5s can vary depending on a number of factors including the amount of chlorine used, amount of organic plant material in water sources, temperature, and seasons. We must control HAA5 levels while also maintaining appropriate levels of disinfectant in the water necessary to operate the water treatment plants and avoid bacterial issues. The following actions to resolve the problem are underway.

- Our water system has drafted a corrective action plan and is working with MassDEP to evaluate solutions to the elevated levels.
- Additional sampling is being done to determine the extent of the issue and the effectiveness of any corrective actions.

For more information please visit our website at [www.leominster-ma.gov](http://www.leominster-ma.gov) or contact Mark Piermarini, Assistant Public Works Director, at 978-534-7590 or Leominster Water Department, 109 Graham St # 2, Leominster, MA 01453.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*